

Pioneer Leon Schlesinger, "Merrie Melodies" Producer Wires \$100
For British War Relief - Needy Children See Rodeo

CANADIAN DIGEST

MOVING PICTURE

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Service Vs. Politics Is Not The Question

ONE of the guests of honour at the annual meeting of the Canadian Picture Pioneers, Royal York Hotel, Wednesday, November 1st, was Hal Hode, Secretary of the American Picture Pioneers, who came as a special representative of Jack Cohen, President of the American Picture Pioneers.

Mr. Cohen made a wise choice in sending Mr. Hode, for both at the business meeting and at the evening banquet, Mr. Hode's address was worthy of attention.

The American Picture Pioneers has not, according to Mr Hode's statement, offered its services to its government. It has concentrated on the social activities of its members, but it has done some philanthropic, as well as charitable work in respect to motion picture representatives in need of its help.

The policy adopted by the Canadian Picture Pioneers of offering its united services for War work, through the organization of a Dominion-wide War Services Committee brought a message of approbation from Mr. Hode, who expressed himself as greatly surprised at the war record achieved in so short a period of time.

Mr. Hode was pleased to learn that the Canadian Picture Pioneers had sponsored the Free Show "Win The War" Campaign for the sale of War Savings Stamps, the happy results of this sponsorship, the information of the War Services Committee which co-operated with Canadian Red Cross, giving that Association three times as much money out of Toronto as it had ever previously received.

The co-operation with the Dominion Government on its second War Loan, and the latest war effort, the sponsorship of the Gene Autry Rodeo Show at the Coliseum, Toronto, November 14-15-16, in aid of the Lord Mayor's British War Relief Fund for Distressed Air Raid Victims.

Is not such an expression of citizenship preferable to playing politics, or being innocently prevailed upon to take a hand in a political game, where your cards are not dealt out from the pack, but handed to you? For motion pictures there should be no question of Service vs. Politics, it should be Service.

Our politics, if we must so name our interests, should be directed in keeping our Voice of the Screen in attune with the voice of the common people; for it is the common people, no offense by such designation, since the most democratic institution which we have to express the Voice of the People is the House of Commons, the members of which are elected by popular vote, who sustain Motion Pictures.

In glancing over the list of motion picture stars who were conspicuous in the support of Mr. Wendell Wilkie, as opposed to the re-election of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, we saw many who could not possibly have studied the merits of both candidates in relationship to the good of the United States and in relationship to the present War Crisis. Stars whose philosophy of life would have made them sympathetic to the democratic vision of President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

There is no doubt about the able qualifications of Mr. Wendell Wilkie, his capabilities; unfortunately for him he was selected at the wrong time, for "there is a tide in the affairs of man which taken at the flood leads on to fortune". Mr. Wilkie's tide was out for it was alleged the very powers which poured thousands into his campaign belong to the class which put Hitler into power and established Fascism, regardless of their possible regret and remorse at having loosed such Monsters upon the world!

—Editor.

Gene Autry Performs At Rodeo For British War Relief Benefit

PICTURE PIONEERS HONOUR STAR AT BANQUET

Toronto, Ont. — Gene Autry, Republic's singing cowboy, arrived in Toronto on Wednesday at 4.45 P.M. and was escorted into the city by a Provincial Police Motorcycle unit, and escorted to the City Hall where a huge crowd had gathered to await his arrival.

The star climbed the steps of the City Hall, where Mrs. O. R. Hanson presented Mrs. Autry with a bouquet of American Beauty roses. Then Gene Autry waved to the crowd and disappeared into the hall where he and Mrs. Autry were welcomed by the City Council, and escorted to the Mayor's office where Controller Conboy, Acting-Mayor during the Mayor's absence from the city, read an address of welcome. Gene Autry then presented the Acting-Mayor with a cheque for the Star Santa Claus Fund.

Mr. and Mrs. Autry were accompanied by the Premier of Ontario, and were his guests at his Toronto home for dinner, where they viewed the star's newest film, "Melody Ranch" in Premier Hepburn's private projection room. Following this, Gene Autry went on to the Royal York Hotel, where the Canadian Picture Pioneers' Banquet was being held at the Roof Garden and he spoke before them for a few moments. He was then presented with a gold membership plate with an expression of thanks for the contribution of his services at the Rodeo inscribed on the reverse side.

The Autrys arrived at the Hepburn farm, from New York, on Tuesday night, where they stayed overnight, leaving by motor with Premier Hepburn, and stopping at St. Thomas, London, Ingersoll, Woodstock, Brantford, and Hamilton, where the star received a tremendous ovation. In Hamilton, Gene Autry could not reach the City Hall for a civic reception, owing to crowds which surrounded him.

Autry will remain in Toronto Thursday, Friday and Saturday, during which time he will appear in the Rodeo at the Coliseum, in the Exhibition Grounds, for both matinee and evening performances. He plans to visit the Queen Mary Hospital for Consumptives in Weston, having received a letter from the children there, asking if he would come and sing for them, and signed on the back with thirty of their scrawled signatures. He will also sing at the Christie Street Hospital. He has come here, and is donating his services for the Rodeo, entirely free, in order to raise money for the Lord Mayor's Fund for British Air Raid Victims Relief.

The sale of Rodeo tickets, as reported on Thursday, was excellent. Tickets were sold in many outlying Ontario cities and towns, with requests coming from as far away as Ottawa.

CAMP BORDEN FILM NEWS

Toronto, Ont.—Eleven movie news-reel cameramen from United States, visited Camp Borden to shoot scenes there. The men represented Paramount, Metro, Fox-Movietone, Universal, Pathe and Associated Screen News. Canada's Film Commissioner commenting on this remarked, "This is quite a compliment to Camp Borden, believe me! Eleven cameras is big stuff. It shows how swiftly U.S. interest in Canada is increasing."

"RAMPARTS" OPENING

Montreal, Que. — A number of those directly concerned with the production of The March of Time's first full-length film, will attend the opening of the film "The Ramparts We Watch" at the Princess Theatre, at 9.15 Friday, November 15th. A small reception will be held following the showing in the Rose Room of the Windsor Hotel, where members of Time and Fortune Magazines will join with the March of Time as hosts to a few friends.

COVERT TO AFL CONVENTION

Toronto, Ont. — Premier Mitchell Hepburn has officially invited the American Federation of Labor, through its president, William Green, to hold its 1941 convention in Ontario, as a "further indisputable indication" of the mutual understanding and co-operation between Canada and the United States "in the face of a common enemy".

The Toronto District Trades and Labor Council voted to send W. P. Covert, business manager of the Motion Picture Projectionists' Union, as its representative to the New Orleans A.F.L. Convention. It will be his job to try and persuade the A.F. of L. to meet in Toronto in 1941.

CIRCLE REDUCES PRICE

Toronto, Ont. — The Circle Theatre has reduced its admission price to 20c before 7 P.M. and 25c after 7 P.M.

"DICTATOR" OPENS IN TWO VANCOUVER HOUSES

Vancouver, B.C.—Charlie Chaplin's "The Great Dictator", opens on November 15th, at both the Plaza and Paradise Theatres here. The admission prices will range from 75c for matinees to \$1.10 for the evening performance.

PAT O'BRIEN IN WINNIPEG

Winnipeg, Man.—Pat O'Brien, star in the current football picture "Knute Rockne", played a one-man game of rugby worthy of any grid hero, during a 45-minute appearance in Winnipeg recently, when he was in Winnipeg on his way to Toronto. And nobody enjoyed it more than Pat.

Besieged by a milling throng of autograph hounds from the second the train stopped until it sped away, he was tackled, blocked, but never quite thrown for a loss — and this reporter had to make several diving plunges before scoring a touchdown.

Fresh from the Western Canada football game where he made the kick-off in the contest which saw the Winnipeg Blue Bombers blank Calgary Bronks 7-0 in the opening encounter of the western championship series, the actor declared he liked the Canadian game. "It was a great battle," he said. "I can't say I understand the rules."

The autograph hunters made a rare clean-up. They clambered up on his coach as the train drew in and when they got him down on the platform, they threw their arms about him, pulled at his coat sleeves, shoved books, bits of paper and even registration cards under his nose, calling for "just one more".

REBUILD ALHAMBRA

Toronto, Ont. — The Alhambra Theatre will be stripped to the walls and entirely remodelled into a modern theatre by Famous Players Corporation.

The theatre, which was opened some twenty years ago as one of Toronto's first de luxe suburban houses, will be converted into a new house at a cost of from \$50,000 to \$60,000.

BERNERD IN TORONTO

Toronto, Ont. — Jeffrey Bernerd, Director of the Gaumont-British Corporation, and in charge of the U.S. sales for his company, visited Toronto this week.

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